

Message Text

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55

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 MED-02 OES-06 HEW-04 H-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W

----- 102654

O R 271600Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 242

INFO USIA WASHDC

CDC ATLANTA GA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8986

STATE FOR PA, M/MED, AF/C, PEACE CORPS/WASH, AID/WASH

USIA FOR IOP, IAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: INFECTIOUS DISEASE SITREP (IV)

REF: STATE 262570

FOLLOWING IS SITREP AS OF OCT 27:

(A) FACTS: SURVEY TEAM ETA KINSHASA 1600 HOURS OCT 27. PRELIMINARY RADIO REPORT LATE OCT 26 FROM CDC MEMBER BREMEN IN BUMBA QUARANTINE ZONE INDICATES 325 CASES AND 300 DEATHS AFTER SURVEY OF 66 VILLAGES, 43 OF WHICH WERE INFECTED. TWO DEATHS REPORTED OCT 24, ACTIVE CASES IN EIGHT VILLAGES WITH TWO MORE VILLAGES STILL TO BE CHECKED. SERIAL TRANSMISSION THROUGH FOUR GENERATIONS. INCUBATION PERIOD 7-18 DAYS WITH PREGNANT WOMEN HAVING INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY. CONFIRMATION THAT DISEASE SPREAD BY FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS AS WELL AS CLOSE CONTACT WITH CADAVERS. (FOREGOING TENTATIVE REPORT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED OR BROADLY DISSEMINATED UNTIL UP-COUNTRY TEAM HAS GIVEN US FULL FACTS AND GOZ HAS ARRANGED FOR PUBLICATION. WILL ADVISE. DRS. JOHNSON AND BREMEN WILL REPORT FULLY.)

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NO CHANGE IN KINSHASA SITUATION. MINHEALTH NGUETE APPEARED OCT 26
KINSHASA TV PRIME TIME EVENING NEWS

WITH APPROX 15-MINUTE
FRENCH/LINGALA PRESENTATION DESIGNED TO ASSURE GENERAL POPULATION
THAT SITUATION WELL IN HAND. WHILE PRESENTATION MADE NO
MENTION OF NUMBER OF DEATHS, DR. NGUETE DID STRESS THAT --
CONTRARY TO RUMORS CIRCULATING KINSHASA -- VIRUS NOT TRANSMITTED
BY FOOD, E.G., MEAT, RICE OR SMOKED FISH, LATTER TWO BEING
STAPLES OF URBAN POPULATION DIET. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED, IN OBVIOUS
PITCH TO KINSHASA HOSPITALS STAFF, PREVENTION/ISOLATION TECHNIQUES
AND EQUIPMENT NOW ON HAND. SHORTER RADIO VERSION BROADCAST
MORNING AND NOON NEWS OCT 27, BUT NO APPEARANCE THUS FAR IN
PRINT MEDIA.

MISSION HAS NOT YET RECEIVED GOZ REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.
NEEDS, COST SPECIFICS, TO BE DETERMINED AFTER DEBRIEFING OF
QUARANTINE SURVEY TEAM.

(B) PRESS GUIDANCE: UNCHANGED. PCVS IN KINSHASA
ISOLATION IN GOOD HEALTH WITH QUARANTINE TO END OCT 29 AND
REASSIGNMENT ELSEWHERE IN ZAIRE WITHIN ONE WEEK. NO CONTACT
WITH BUMBA QUARANTINE ZONE PCVS SINCE OCT 20 ALTHOUGH EXPECT
FURTHER DETAILS OCT 28.
CUTLER

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